AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of billing a communications network user for the purchase of goods or services associated with the transport of packet traffic from that communications network into a packet communications network, each packet having an address which identifies a provider of goods or services, wherein the method is executed by a server and comprises~~:~~:

~~providing~~ accessing, by the server, a set of rules, ~~and~~

determining, by the server, from said rules and each packet address, a respective billing tariff and a network user account to be debited for the transport of that packet,

~~and the method further comprises~~ obtaining, by the server, a coupon from an account database, representing an amount of credit, and

debiting, by the server, a network user account by the amount of that credit, before allowing the transport of packet traffic for that network user.

2. (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein account details for network users and account details of providers of goods and services are stored in a common accounts database.

3. (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 2, wherein transfers of credit between accounts stored in the accounts database are determined from coupons generated for each transaction.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 3, wherein network users have prepaid and postpaid accounts.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, wherein each user account is accorded a respective credit limit.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 5, wherein a user validation is performed prior to completion of a transaction.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6 wherein the network is a wireless network.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A method executed on a sever configured to facilitate ~~of~~ on-line shopping, the method comprising:

debiting, by the server, ~~in which~~ the cost of goods or services purchased by a customer ~~are debited~~ to that customer's pre-paid or postpaid account with a network operator, ~~and~~

applying, by the server, a corresponding credit ~~is applied~~ to an account held by a provider of those goods or services,

~~and the method further comprises~~ obtaining, by the server, a coupon from an account database, representing an amount of credit, and

debiting, by the server, a network user account by the amount of that credit, before allowing the transport of packet traffic for that network user.

9.   (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein a transaction charge is retained by the network operator.

10.   (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein a supplier of goods or services is credited with a portion of the network operator's revenue for the transport of packet traffic relating to a transaction.

11.   (Currently Amended) A billing system for ~~method of~~ providing combined billing of a communications packet network user for the delivery of communications services to that user and for the on-line purchase of goods and services by the user via the communications network, the goods and services being associated with the transport of packet traffic wherein each packet includes a packet address, the billing system comprising:

a database having stored therein a set of rules; and

a server communicatively coupled to the database, the server being configured to:

~~wherein the method comprises; providing a set of rules, determining~~ determine from said rules and each packet address, a respective billing tariff and a network user account to be debited for the transport of that packet,

~~and the method further comprises obtaining~~ obtain a coupon from an account database, representing an amount of credit, and

~~debiting~~ debit a network user account by the amount of that credit, before allowing the transport of packet traffic for that network user.

12.	(Currently Anemded)	A ~~The~~ billing system ~~method as claimed in~~ of claim 11, wherein network users have prepaid and postpaid accounts.

13.	(Currently Amended)	A ~~The~~ billing system ~~method as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein each user account is accorded a respective credit limit.

14.	(Currently Amended)	A ~~The~~ billing system ~~method as claimed in~~ of claim 13, wherein the server is configured to credit a supplier of goods or services ~~is credited with~~ a portion of the network operator's revenue for the transport of packet traffic relating to a transaction.

15.	(Currently Amended)	A ~~The~~ billing system ~~method as claimed in~~ of 14, wherein said network comprises a wireless network.

16.	(Currently Amended)	A tangible, ~~Software in~~ machine readable ~~form on a storage~~ medium ~~and arranged to perform the method of claim 15~~ comprising a plurality of instructions that, in response to being executed, result in a computing device

determining from a set of rules and each packet address, a respective billing tariff and a network user account to be debited for the transport of that packet,

obtaining a coupon from an account database, representing an amount of credit, and

debiting a network user account by the amount of that credit, before allowing the transport of packet traffic for that network user.

17.   (Previously Presented)   Apparatus for billing a communications network user for the purchase of goods or services associated with the transport of packet traffic from that communications network into a packet communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for providing each packet with an address which identifies a provider of goods or services,

a store having a set of rules,

a packet analyzer for determining from said rules and each packet address, a respective billing tariff and a network user account to be debited or credited for the transport of that packet; and

means for obtaining a coupon from an account database, representing an amount of credit, and debiting a network user account by the amount of that credit, before allowing the transport of packet traffic for that network user.

18.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein network users have prepaid and postpaid accounts.

19.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein each user account is accorded a respective credit limit.

20.   (Original)   Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network comprises a wireless network.